

## Districts Gear Up For Spring With New Equipment Purchases

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Not only does spring mark the time of warm weather, longer days, and the growing season beginning, it also means the majority of work is about to begin in agriculture. With many farmers heading to the field to begin their planting our conservation districts are taking a step ahead to get conservation practices on the ground. Many districts across the region have purchased new equipment in the last few months to have accessible to producers.

Pulaski County has had a hydraulic post driver for several years; this implement remains one of the most popular pieces of equipment available for rental. The benefits of the equipment allow producers who have signed up for any kind of fencing products to get those practices installed in a quicker, more efficient manner. This allows for use when fencing cattle out of streams and ponds or establishing pastures for rotational grazing. All of these practices help to conserve our natural resources which are the essential building blocks of agriculture. This year due to the continued use of the driver the district replaced their existing unit with a brand new post driver.

Due to the popularity of the post driver in Pulaski County, Russell County opted to purchase a hydraulic post driver for their county as well. Russell County utilized the revolving loan fund from DOC to purchase this piece of equipment. Once delivered a demonstration was given as to how to operate this implement.

Perhaps the most common piece of equipment that you will find at conservation districts across the state is the no till drill. Many districts utilized partner dollars from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to purchase their original drills. This was the case in both Rockcastle County and Knox County. Drills were originally cost shared to be utilized for native grasses and wildlife seeding as well as general planting as well. At the end of the contract ownership went 100% to the district. After many years of use these seven foot drills began to outlive their useful term as rental equipment. While the implement would be ideal for a single producer, they weren't the most feasible for rental equipment. As a result new ten foot Haybuster drills were purchased by both districts. This allows for a bigger implement which cuts down on 30% of use due to the extra three foot of planting width. It also should cut down on time that the drill is out for use as well. The drills arrived just in time for spring planting.

Districts across the state are making it easier for producers to put conservation practices on the ground as well as utilizing no till seeding. If you would like more information on the Equipment Revolving Loan Fund, you can visit the Division of Conservation Webpage at [www.conservation.ky.gov](http://www.conservation.ky.gov). You may also find your county conservation district contact information at the same address. This can be used to contact the district to see what equipment is available for rental near you.